



Director of
Central
Intelligence

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National Intelligence Daily

*Tuesday
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Overnight Reports 17

The Overnight Reports, printed on yellow paper as the final section of the Daily, will often contain materials that update the Situation Reports and Briefs and Comments.

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OVERNIGHT REPORTS

(The items in the Overnight Reports section have not been coordinated within the intelligence community. They are prepared overnight by the Office of Current Operations with analyst comment where possible from the production offices of NFAC.)

Iran

According to late press reports, a spokesman at Ayatollah Khomeini's headquarters announced the arrest today of former Prime Minister Bakhtiar [redacted]

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[redacted] The spokesman said that royalist General Khosroddad had also been arrested. [redacted]

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According to Western news services, overzealous followers of Khomeini rounded up scores of US citizens yesterday but officials of the new government quickly apologized to the Americans and released them. One American reportedly was wounded as youths fired on the Hilton and Intercontinental Hotels. [redacted]

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Tehran radio, citing President Carter's remarks at his press conference yesterday, reported last night that the US is preparing to recognize the new government. A Japanese news agency said that Japan would recognize the government; Foreign Minister Sonoda reportedly told the Japanese cabinet yesterday that Tokyo would carefully watch developments in Iran and the US and Soviet approaches to the new government. According to press reports from Seoul, the South Korean Government also is considering recognizing the Bazargan government. [redacted]

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Chad

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Heavy firing was continuing this morning in Ndjamena, the US Embassy reported [redacted] Forces backing Prime Minister Habre apparently were holding the radio station and at least one other location. US citizens reportedly are unharmed. [redacted]

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Pakistan

The lawyer for former Prime Minister Bhutto today appealed the murder conviction and death sentence the Supreme Court sustained last week. Reporting yesterday in expectation of the appeal, the US Embassy described the country's mood as "expectantly subdued, even sad." Most contacts of the Embassy believe that Bhutto will be executed, and many predict that, if so, Pakistan will suffer. International appeals for Bhutto's life continue; many Pakistanis are emphasizing the appeals from the US, China, and Libya while noting the lack of a Saudi public statement. The Embassy reports that Bhutto can be executed tomorrow afternoon if the Supreme Court does not grant the stay the defense team--without Bhutto's approval--is seeking to give additional time for the pressures for clemency to mount.

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North Korea - South Korea

Pyongyang radio, conveying a statement of the North's Fatherland Front, today accepted yesterday's South Korean proposal that representatives of the two sides meet at Panmunjom on Saturday.

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Seoul radio promptly said the North Korean statement was "aimed only at external propaganda." The South Korean broadcast took note that the North Korean text again called for talks on forming a "preparatory committee for national reunification," a proposition anathema to Seoul because it could involve opposition members in the South and would not meet South Korea's call for resuming talks within the framework of the North-South Coordination Committee.

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India-China

Indian Foreign Minister Vajpayee arrived in Beijing yesterday. According to the US Embassy in New Delhi, he stressed the importance of the border issue in a statement prior to departure and welcomed the remarks on his visit Chinese Foreign Minister Huang Hua had given to Indian newspapers. The Chinese have announced that Vajpayee will meet with Vice Premier Deng Xiaoping and Chairman Hua Guofeng. A member of Vajpayee's party told the Embassy that regional issues--especially the Chinese attitude toward Indo-Pakistani relations--will be the major focus of the talks. He thought it important that both sides be seen to be making progress toward a solution of the border issue.

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COMMENT: For domestic political purposes, Vajpayee felt compelled to take a hard line on the border issue. The trip is essentially an exploratory mission, however, and no breakthrough on the border issue is expected. Huang Hua expressed optimism about the talks in his remarks, but he did not indicate the Chinese would show any give on the border issue--the key obstacle to Sino-Indian rapprochement.

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Israel

In a lengthy assessment of the current status of Defense Minister Weizman, the US Embassy yesterday noted that his extended public silence since his participation in the Blair House talks in October reflects Weizman's dejection over the impasse in the negotiations with Egypt and his deepening fear that Israel will allow peace to slip away. Weizman's relations with Prime Minister Begin have deteriorated over the past year, and his personal relations with Foreign Minister Dayan have improved little. The Embassy adds, however, that to the voting public Weizman remains the most popular member of the Begin team. Weizman still harbors little-disguised hopes of becoming Prime Minister but currently is devoting his energies to the Defense Ministry; he is seriously concerned that Israel may yet have to prepare for another war.

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Belgium

According to press reports, Social Christian Party leader Wilfried Martens yesterday told King Baudouin that he had failed in his month-long effort to form a new coalition government. [redacted]

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COMMENT: The legislative elections on 17 December produced no significant shifts in strength among the eight parties and gave no candidate a national mandate. The process could drag on for several more months because of the complex mix of regional, linguistic, and economic issues to be worked out among prospective partners in a coalition. The new parliament convenes this week, and the government of acting Prime Minister Paul vanden Boeynants, also a Social Christian, will continue in a caretaker status. [redacted]

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